UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

ORDER CLARIFYING SPEEDY TRIAL ACT FINDINGS IN RESPONSE TO EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 ADM-1 ORDER 20–16

ORDER

In Standing Order ADM-1, Order 20-5, the court continued all criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before May 1, 2020. In Standing Order ADM-1, Order 20-15, the court adopted and expanded upon the findings in ADM-1, Order 20-5, and extended the continuance of criminal jury trials to June 1, 2020.

This order is intended to clarify that each district judge on this court adopts the excludable time and "ends of justice" findings contained in the Speedy Trial Act order in ADM-1, Order 20-5, and applies those findings to all criminal cases continued by ADM-1, Order 20-15.

As explained in ADM-1, Order 20-10, the judges on this court agree—in light of the unique circumstances presented by this public health emergency as described in ADM 1, 20-5—that issuing individual findings in each separate case would be redundant and unnecessary and a waste of scarce judicial resources. The Speedy Trial Act "ends of justice" findings in each case are—due to the nature of this public health emergency—applicable generally to all cases before this court. Thus, a particularized finding in each case would be redundant.

The court reiterates that "[e]xcept for the right of a fair trial before an impartial jury, no mandate of our jurisprudence is more important" than the Speedy Trial Act. <u>Furlow v. United States</u>, 644 F.2d 764, 768–69 (9th Cir. 1981) (analyzing Speedy Trial Act and upholding district court's "ends of justice" findings during the emergency created by the eruption of Mt. St. Helens). In exercising our discretion to make these findings under the Speedy Trial Act, every judge on this court remains ever mindful of the critical principles at stake here.

SO ORDERED.

Date: April 15, 2020

Landya B. McCafferty
Chief Judge

/s/ Paul J. Barbadoro Paul J. Barbadoro District Judge

Joseph N. Laplante District Judge

Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr.
District Judge

Steven J. McAuliffe
District Judge